Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00594 061347Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07

SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03

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R 061235Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5989

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL PORT LOUIS 0594

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IS, MP

SUBJECT: MAURITIUS BREAKS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

- 1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: MAURITUAN PAPERS JULY 6 CARRIED AFP REPORT THAT MAURITIUS HAS SEVERED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, RELATIONS HAD BEEN COOLING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND MAURITIUS HAD NOT RESPONDED TO ISRAELI REQUESTS TO ACCREDIT NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. PRESS REPORTED THAT GOM ACTION OF BREAKING RELATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN JULY 1 BEFORE THE ISRAELI COMMANDO OPERATION IN UGANDA. HOWEVER, GOM HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF RUPTURE. END UNCLASSIFIED
- 2. COMMENT: MINEXTAFF PERMANENT SECRETARY TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM HAD INSTRUCTED MAURITIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON TO INFORM ISRAELIS OF GOM DECISION TO TERMINATE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, APPARENTLY SOMETIME LAST WEEK. GOM CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AFTER OTHER AFRICAN STATES HAD SEVERED THEIR RELATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PORT L 00594 061347Z

LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH RESPECT RAMGOOLAM HAS FOR GOLDA

MEIR. RAM HAS COMMENTED THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW THE NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS IN ISRAEL AND HE HAS NOTICEABLY COOLED TOWARDS ISRAEL AS HIS FRIEND GOLDA MEIR LEFT ACTIVE POLITICS. IN RECENT MONTHS, GOM HAS UNDERTAKEN TO STRENGTHEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD. THE NEW GOM ALIGNMENT WITH THE ARABS AND AFRICAN OAU PRESSURE SEEM TO HAVE CONVINCED RAM THAT DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL WERE A LUXURY HE COULD NO LONGER AFFORD. RAM MAY ALSO HOPE THAT BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WILL HELP HOM WITH MOSLEM VOTERS IN GENERAL ELECTIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, IS, MP To: STATE

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